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DIA Review
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
27 October 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

MIDDLE EAST

Situation Report Number 85
(As of 0630 EDT)

THE MILITARY SITUATION

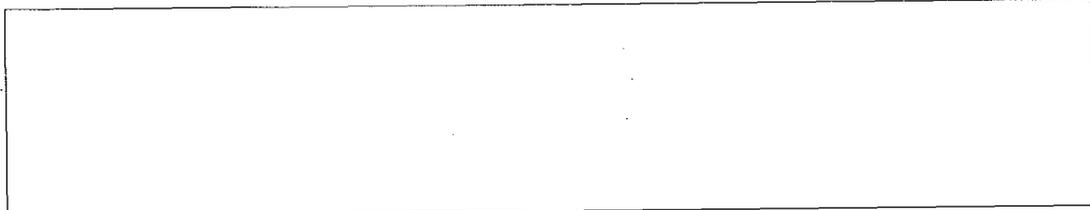
GENERAL

(All times cited in military paragraphs are Cairo/Tel Aviv time, unless otherwise specified.)

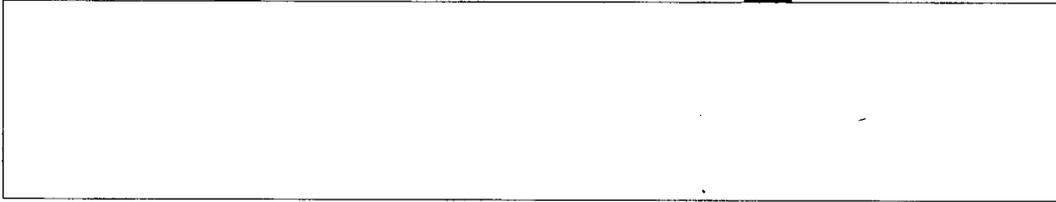
1. After yesterday's heavy fighting in the vicinity of Suez City, relative calm now prevails over the southern canal area. Israeli air strikes against the Egyptian forces besieged on the canal's east bank continued into the late evening hours, although the level was much reduced from the peak activity at mid-day yesterday.

2. The Israelis flew defensive fighter patrols over the Sinai during the night. At dawn, the Israelis began reconnaissance flights, but there was no resumption of the heavy ground strikes that had opened the fighting on 26 October.

3. The status of the two Egyptian divisions on the east bank is still uncertain following their apparently unsuccessful attempt yesterday to cross back to the west bank. With their supply line cut off, the Egyptians reportedly are in desperate need of food and water.

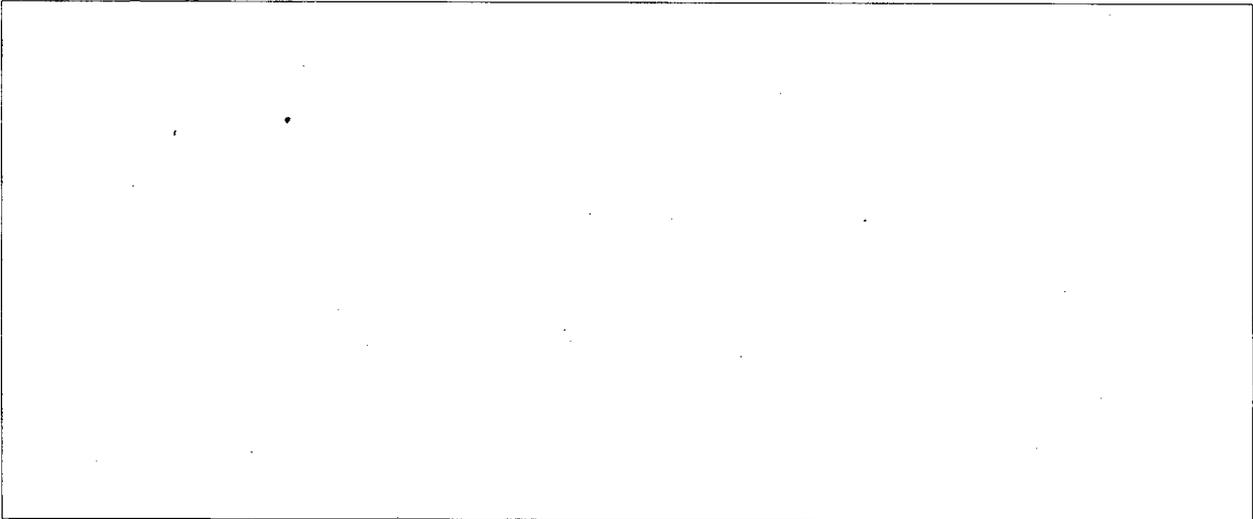


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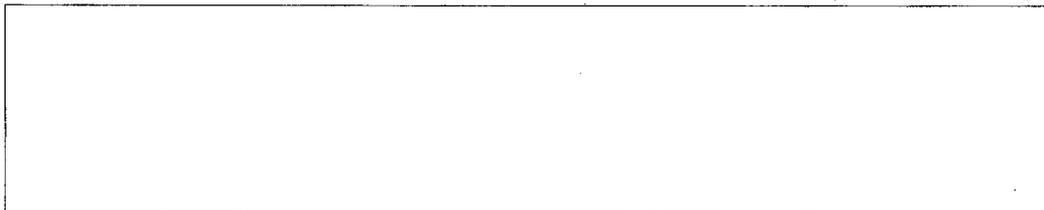
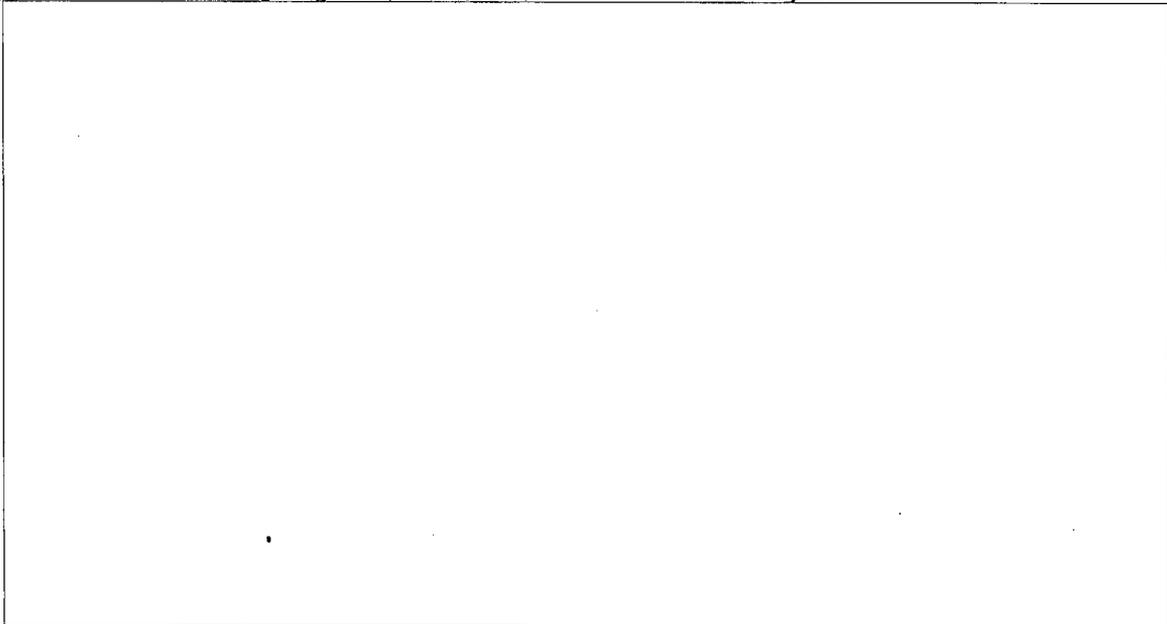


SYRIA

10. The Syrian foreign minister said yesterday that all Iraqi air force units had left Syria and that all Iraqi ground forces were being withdrawn.

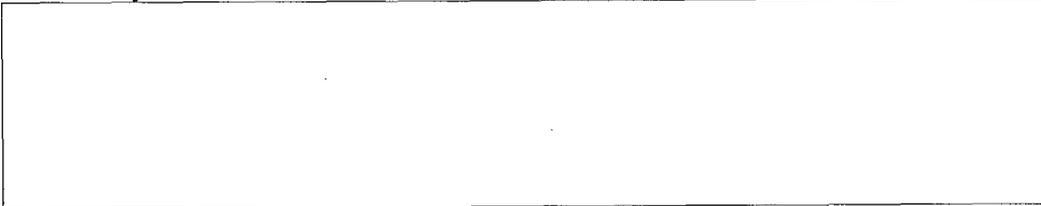
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ISRAELI ATTITUDE TOWARD UN FORCE AND
SOVIET OBSERVERS

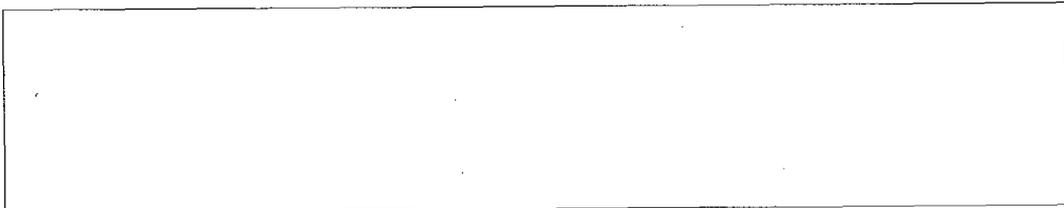
13. Military spokesman General Herzog said yesterday that the UN emergency peacekeeping force would only serve partisan interests and hinder the Arabs and Israel from making peace. Herzog said Tel Aviv regarded such a force with skepticism since Israel's experience with UN forces showed they "create a barrier between the sides instead of a bridge," and generally represent national or bloc interests rather than an international interest. Herzog accused the Soviet Union of attempting to infiltrate into the region under the guise of a UN force.

14. In television interview with a US newsman, Foreign Minister Abba Eban said the dispatch of Soviet observers to supervise the cease-fire would violate the sense and spirit of the Security Council resolution that Moscow supported. Eban said the Security Council had firmly decided that no military personnel from the major powers would be sent to the Middle East.

UNITED NATIONS

15. The UN Security Council will meet again today to give additional consideration to Secretary General Waldheim's call for an eventual 7,000-man Middle Eastern truce force. Waldheim estimates that such a force would cost \$30 million in its first six months of operation. Private meetings of Security Council members on Friday failed to produce agreement on the Secretary-General's plan. According to press accounts, council members could not agree on which countries the forces should be drawn from. Other press reports say that the USSR and China objected to a proposal that the costs of the truce force should be shared by all UN members on the basis of their percentage contributions to the regular budget.

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16. The Security Council met 26 October at Egyptian request to consider alleged violations of the cease-fire by Israel. The Egyptian representative stated that "new hostilities" had broken out on the Sinai and Suez fronts. He accused Israel of attacking Suez City and of attempting to make Egyptian troops flee in disarray. The Israeli representative said Egypt had adopted the strategy of attacking Israeli forces while accusing Israel of breaking the cease-fire, then accusing Israel of attacking when its forces reacted to the Egyptian assault. The Soviet representative supported the Egyptian claims of new Israeli aggression and criticized the US for failing to exert pressure on Israel to adhere to the cease-fire. He quoted from Brezhnev's statement to the World Congress of Peace Forces, including Brezhnev's call for the US to join the Soviet Union in sending representatives to the Middle East.

CHINA/UN

17. A Chinese diplomat at the UN said yesterday that Peking would not contribute in any manner to the UN peace force. He added that China would not make any financial contribution to the force, either out of its regular UN budget contribution or by a voluntary contribution.

18. The Chinese, meanwhile, in an NCNA dispatch, have taken note of the US military alert. NCNA viewed the alert as further proof of the long-standing Chinese contention that tension will continue in the Middle East as the two "superpowers" contend for hegemony.

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FRENCH ARMS SUPPLY TO ISRAEL

20. According to a sensitive State Department cable, the US Embassy in Paris reports that Israeli officials were extremely surprised and pleased at the amount and kind of equipment which they were able to purchase from France after the beginning of hostilities-- Tel Aviv had expected a total embargo. The Israelis found the French even easier to deal with after the US began its resupply, presumably because US shipments made the French effort less noticeable.

NATO COUNCIL MEETING

21. At the 26 October special meeting of the NATO council on the Middle East, France sharply criticized the US for not informing and consulting the council on details of US-Soviet contacts, while the US was at the same time calling for allied solidarity and for allied pressure on the Soviet Union. The French representative said Paris is of the opinion that there is no principle requiring common NATO policy with regard to problems outside the geographical treaty area. He asked rhetorically whether US actions represented "the implementation of a policy which might be called the policy of June 22, 1973" (the date of the US-Soviet agreement

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on the prevention of nuclear war). The Belgian and Italian representatives, who indicated they were speaking without instructions, echoed the French line. The UK and Dutch representatives, while not disagreeing, expressed understanding for the special problems of the US and the need for secrecy.

UK REACTION TO US ALERT

22. The British press has given heavy coverage to a discussion of the Middle East situation in the House of Commons on Thursday, during which Foreign Secretary Alec Douglas-Home was unable to confirm prior US consultation with London on the alert of US forces. Douglas-Home opened the discussion with a statement urging that negotiations begin immediately as called for by the 22 October Security Council resolution and reiterating a previous British offer to participate in a UN truce force. Most papers did not emphasize his implied admission that UK was not informed of the US alert, but two newspapers headlined this aspect and radio and TV commentators spoke about the lack of consultation.

TASS STATEMENT ON US ALERT

23. A TASS English-language broadcast today characterized as "absurd" any allegation that Soviet actions were responsible for the alert of US armed forces. TASS said Soviet activities are aimed solely at promoting the implementation of Security Council decisions on the cease-fire and restoration of peace in the Middle East. The alert of US forces, the statement continues, does not promote international detente and was obviously taken in an attempt to intimidate the Soviet Union.

24. The US Embassy in Moscow interprets the release of the TASS statement--shortly after Brezhnev's speech to the World Congress of Peace Forces--as

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indicating the Soviets felt the need to make a sharp public response to the US alert but decided that the response should not be included in the more restrained Brezhnev speech.

DENMARK

25. The Danes claim to have been instrumental in preventing Middle Eastern experts of the European Communities from issuing a French-initiated declaration at a 22 October meeting that would have called for the prohibition of "massive" arm deliveries. A Danish Foreign Ministry official said the Dutch were not represented by their regular representative and, probably for this reason, did not assume their normal posture.

26. Denmark is among the EC states that are most conservative about expanding the political and security competencies of the EC. In addition, they are among the most sympathetic to Israel. Prime Minister Jorgensen, currently touring the USSR, disagreed with his Soviet hosts when they depicted Israel as the aggressor. Denmark's ruling Social Democratic Party, moreover, has expressed solidarity with its fellow Socialists in Israel.

IRAN

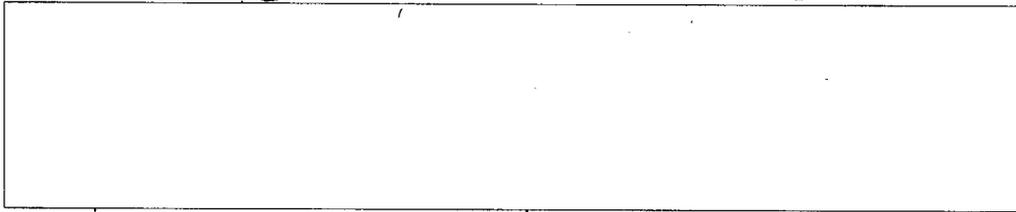
27. The Iranians have been generally lying low and waiting for the Middle East crisis to pass. They have been willing to lend minor support--mostly rhetorical--to their fellow Muslims, but they have carefully avoided any move that would damage Iran's close ties with the US or cut into oil revenues. Quite predictably, they refrained from joining in the Arab oil production cutback and anti-US embargo. They are evidently a bit nervous about how the Arabs will react to this.

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ZAMBIA/ISRAEL

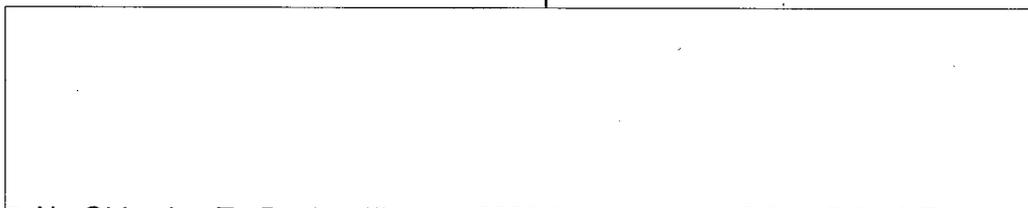
28. Zambia broke off diplomatic relations with Israel yesterday. It becomes the twelfth African state to do so since hostilities began on 6 October.

JAPANESE RESPONSE TO ARAB PRESSURES

29. Tokyo has responded to Arab pressures for Japanese support by reiterating its backing for UN resolutions but refusing to give specific support for Arab positions on the occupied territories. On 19 October, ten Arab ambassadors in Tokyo pressed the Japanese for a specific statement of support for the Arab cause. The Japanese felt compelled to issue a "clarification" of their position following the cease-fire and after being designated an "enemy" state by the Arabs. The Saudi ambassador doubted that the Arabs would be satisfied with the Japanese position, which was spelled out in a note verbale on 25 October. The Japanese were not surprised by the Saudi response and expect to receive further pressure from the Arabs, but for now, at least they do not intend to move beyond Resolution 242 and their general expressions of sympathy and understanding for the Arab positions. The Japanese note also said they would endeavor to increase their contribution to UNRWA and extend as much economic and technical cooperation as possible to the Arab countries.

LATE ITEM

30. Egyptian Presidential adviser Marai says President Sadat believes the credibility of the US and the Soviet Union is now on the line as the Third Army's survival has been jeopardized by an "Israeli doublecross of the US," according to a sensitive State



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Department cable. Marai, emphasizing that he was speaking for President Sadat, gave this message to Newsweek editor Deborahgrave at a Saturday morning meeting in Cairo. Marai said Sadat wanted to make the following points:

--the Third Army was surrounded after the cease-fire;

--Egypt had respected and believed the guarantees and assurances given by the Soviet Union and the US;

--Egypt had warned the Soviet Union and the US that Israel would take advantage of the cease-fire to try to cut off the Third Army, but both superpowers told Cairo not to worry as the US had received an appropriate pledge from Israel that this would not occur;

--the two superpowers now know exactly what Israel is trying to do to the Egyptian force in the southern sector of the Sinai, despite the cease-fire;

--the Israelis have refused to allow water or blood plasma to get through to the Third Army;

--more Israeli troops are moving through the Mitla pass to reinforce the siege of the Third Army;

--the seriousness of Nixon and Brezhnev will now be judged by what happens to the Third Army.

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